

May 14, 2012

To U.S. Copyright Office,

Please do not raise registration fees. The process is already onerous and it already favors large-scale operations that can afford fees over individual freelance photographers who can ill afford existing fees let alone higher fees. The proposed fee hikes would simply exacerbate the problem.

As a freelance photographer, I've occasionally been paid less per assignment than the new proposed fees. Raising fees may not impact large corporations, but it would be another way to help put freelance photographers such as myself out of business.

Instead of raising the fee for all, I suggest a two-tiered fee: A very high fee for for-profit corporations and a very small fee (or no fee at all) for individuals and nonprofits. Such a system would help the Copyright Office raise revenue while being more fair to us smallholder artists, us freelancers who are struggling to make financial ends meet.

Thank you for considering my suggestion,
David Krantz